

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-19 remain in this application, while claims 1 and 6 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The claim amendments above are made after consideration of the comments provided by the Examiner in section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action. All of the claims remaining in this application fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Independent claims 11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with various other claims, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,916,367 to Wollin in view of U.S. Patent 6,722,587 to Hanano. Reconsideration is requested.

Currently amended claims 11 and 19 reflect with improved clarity a key feature of the connecting plates, i.e. that they can be connected to lateral surfaces of the respective distributor blocks selectively in a first position and a second position defined by having the plates turned by 180°. The connecting plates can be connected in either of two positions turned 180° with respect to one another. It is not critical in what way this is done; in fact, turning could even be done by hand. Turning, of course, could also be done automatically by appropriate turning means of which one skilled in the art is well aware.

Claim 11, accordingly, now reflects that the connecting plates of the claimed spray head are connected to lateral surfaces of the respective distributor blocks selectively in one of the two positions turned 180° with respect to one another. In each of these two positions, the connecting plate has a connecting passage in fluid connection with a corresponding media passage of the adjacent distributor block. Claim 11 additionally specifies that each connecting plate has

a connecting passage asymmetric to a longitudinal central plane; this feature permits fluid connection of the connecting passage with different media passages in the same distributor block upon turning the connection plate by 180°. Claim 19 includes essentially the same limitations discussed in the spray head making method defined thereby.

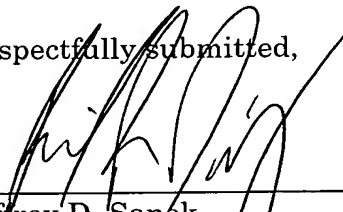
It is respectfully submitted that the Wollin and Hanano patents, taken as a whole, do not suggest either a spray head including connecting plates meeting the limitations in claim 11 mentioned or a spray head making method including connecting a plurality of such spray heads as claim 19 defines. Nothing in either the Wollin patent disclosure or the Hanano patent disclosure suggests that connecting plates can be connected to lateral surfaces of a respective distributor block in two positions turned 180° about a longitudinal central plane and having a connecting passage opening on a side adjacent a distributor block asymmetrically to a longitudinal central plane as claims 11 and 19 now reflect, and nothing in the rejection based on the Wollin and Hanano patents addresses the limitations mentioned. The additional secondary references discussed in sections 6 and 7 on page 4 of the Office Action fail to suggest further modifying either the Wollin spray head itself or the manner in which the Wollin spray head is made so as to meet the limitations mentioned, and currently amended claims 11 and 19 are patentable. The rest of the claims remaining in this application now depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 11 and are considered patentable as well.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028972.53932US).

Respectfully submitted,

February 17, 2006



Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169
Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDS:RRD
2685373#